(b) if so, the nature of its constitution and the areas of its jurisdiction;

(c) whether the Commission has met since its constitution;

(d) whether representatives from different State Governments were invited to elicit their views on different aspects of women development in various circumstances;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, whether different voluntary organisations engaged in welfare of women are likely to be given opportunity to express their views in the forth-coming meetings; and

(g) whether the Commission's report will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (g). The Government has constituted the National Commission for Women on 31.1.1992. The Commission consists of a Chairperson, five Members and a Member-Secretary. Its jurisdiction extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Commission has started functioning and has had one meeting since its constitution. The State Government have been requested to send their views on different aspects of development of women. The Commission has commenced the process of interacting with voluntary organisations and individuals who are engaged in the field of welfare of women to solicit their views.

The National Commission for Women Act 1990, also provides for the constitution of Committee in which individuals other than the Members of the Commission can also be co-opted as Members to study issues and problems relating to women as decided by the Commission from time to time.

The National Commission for Woman Act 1990 provides that the Annual Report of the Commission and Audit Report would be laid before each House of Parliament by the Government after the reports are received together with a Memorandum of Action to be taken on the recommendations contained therein, to the extent they relate to the Central Government.

[*Translation*]

Encephalitis and Kala-Azar in U. P. and Bihar

3298. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died of encephalitis and Kala-Azar in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar between August and October, 1991;

(b) the causes of spreading of such diseases; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per the reports of State Government the number of persons died due to Japanese Encephalitis and Kala-azar in the State of Bihar Eastern Uttar Pradesh are as under:–

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

S. No.	Name of State	Deaths during			Total No. of deaths
		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
1.	Bihar	NIL	3	11	14
2.	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	26	516	542
	KALA-AZAR				
1.	Bihar	99	216	73	388
2.	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	01	01	02

(b) Kala-Azar is spread by a vector called sand fly. The sandflies breed in Shady, damp and warm places and are killed by DDT spraying. As part of the National Malaria Eradication Programme, DDT was being sprayed in all endemic districts of the country. As a spin-off of the spraying the sand flies were also killed.

During sixties, Kala-azar almost disppeared from the Country because of collateral benefits of insecticidal spraying under National Malaria Eradication Programme. Spraying operations were withdrawn from these areas because these entered maintenance phase of eradication. This resulted in gradual build up of sandfly population resulting in spread of Kala-azer in Bihar & West Bengal.

Japanese Encephalitis.

Japansese Encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted by bite of an infected mosquito. These mosquite breed in irrigated tracts mostly in paddy cultivated field areas. The problem is compounded by presence of pigs, which act as natural amplifier hosts. This disease is generally reported in epidemics.

(c) Following measures are being undertaken to control Kala-azar in Bihar:

– Systematic case detection and treatment of all patients with drugs like Sodium Stibo Gluconat, Pentamidine etc.

– Interruptions of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insectional spraying in affected ares with two rounds of DDT.

- Improvement of general sanitation in and around the house to eliminate breeding ground of sandfly, the vector for Kala-azar.

- Intensification of health education, activities for disease prevention.

- Central Government is also providing required quantities of insecticide - DDT 5% wdp and Pentamidine Isothionate, the imported drug and Sodium Antinomy Gluconate, first live drug available indigenously as Central assistance to Govt. of Bihar.

- Traning of medical and para-medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases.

Following measures were being undertaken to control Japanese Encephalitis in Uttar Pradesh:

- Issue of Guidelines for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis to the District Health Authority.

- Stocking adeguate quantity of insecticide, for vector control and medicines for management of Japanese Encephalitis cases.

- Intensive fogging operations in the affected area.

- Arrangement for the timely transportation of patients treatment centres.

- Deputing mobile teams to supervise arrangements for assisting the District Health Staff in the control of Japanese Encephalitis. The Government of India has been providing assistance in the form of insecticides to the State Government for undertaking control measures.

[English]

Meeting of State Food Ministers

3299. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Food Ministers of States was held on February 28, 1992;

(b) if so, the number of States attended the meeting;

(c) the main subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at the meeting;

(d) whether any concrete proposal has been evolved for simultaneous dehoarding of foodgrains in all the States concerned; and

(e) if so, the time by which these suggestion are likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Closure of Regional Languages Library

3300. SHRI RAMAMURTHEE K. TINDIVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Languages Library in Tulsi Sadan has been closed for over two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) when the library is likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The building in which the Regional Languages Library was functioning had been declared by the Central Public Works Department(CPWD) as dangerous for occupation. This made it imperative to renovate the building. The work of renovation was started by the CPWD in December, 1989.

(c) The CPWD have indicated that the work will be completed by May, 1992.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalays Abroad

3301. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: